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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,879	06/21/2001	Avi J. Ashkenazi	P1110PICI	9003

9157 7590 09/19/2002

GENENTECH, INC.
1 DNA WAY
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

EXAMINER

KAUFMAN, CLAIRE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1646	DATE MAILED: 09/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/887,879	ASHKENAZI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Claire M. Kaufman	1646	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2001 and 21 June 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 29-34 and 55-68 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 55-62, 67 and 68 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8410 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The preliminary amendments filed 6/21/01 and 9/20/01 have been entered.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Apo-2DcR Antibodies.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claim 55-62 and 67-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Patent 6,261,801 (Wei et al.).

US Patent 6,261,801 teaches “TRID” or “tumor necrosis factor receptor 5” (“TNFR-5”) with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, which has the same sequence as the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 of the instant application. Also taught (col. 1, lines 10-16) is the ability of TRID to bind TRAIL (also known as Apo-2 ligand, col. 3, lines 4-12). Also contemplated are antibodies that bind TRID, including monoclonal and humanized antibodies, and antibodies that bind the extracellular domain of TRID which can be used for radiolabelling cells, including human cells *in vivo* and *in vitro* which express TRID (col. 25, lines 56-col. 26, line 7). Well known methods of producing such antibodies are taught (col. 22, lines 26- col. 23, line 35). The concept of and methods for producing an antagonist antibody raised against TRID, including

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antibodies that block the binding of Apo-2 ligand to TRID, is also set forth (col. 28, lines 29-32, and col. 29, lines 15-31).

Note that US Patent 6,261,801 does not teach an antibody to TRID that also binds other Apo-2 ligand antibodies. In view of the low sequence identity shared by Apo-2DcR and the other Apo-2 ligand receptors recited in claim 63, one could not have readily envisioned an antibody that had the required shared binding properties set forth in the claim.

Prior Art

It is also noted that while provisional priority application 60/049,911 discloses the complete Apo-2DcR protein and encoding nucleic acid, it does not disclose a specific antibody; however, the prior art of record does not teach an anti-Apo-2DcR antibody as claimed. This includes the lack of teaching of an antibody to DR4 (TRAIL-1), Apo-2 (DR5, TRAIL-2) or DcR2 (TRAIL-4), which is pertinent since disclosed antibodies 6D10.97 and IC5.24.1 bind these receptors as well as Apo-2DcR, albeit with generally lower affinity (Fig. 16).

Term Usage

It is noted that the art also refers to Apo-2DcR as TR5, TNFR-5, TRID, LIT and DcR1.

Conclusion

Claims 29-34 are allowed.

Claims 63-66 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Claire M. Kaufman, whose telephone number is (703) 305-5791. Dr. Kaufman can generally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler, can be reached at (703) 308-6564.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294. NOTE: If applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by the applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office. Please advise the examiner at the telephone number above before facsimile transmission.

Claire M. Kaufman, Ph.D.


Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1646

September 17, 2002